

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 H-03 L-03 PRS-01

PA-04 USIA-15 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

DRC-01 AGR-20 FEA-02 SCI-06 INT-08 /212 W

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R 030400Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3151

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, BG

SUBJ: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH FOR

PREPARATION OF JUTE SEED PROJECT

1. ADB PRESIDENT HAS APPROVED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT OF \$46,000 TO GOVT OF BANGLADESH FOR PREPARATION OF PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A JUTE SEED INDUSTRY IN BANGLADESH, AND DETERMINING THE TECHNICAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF SUCH A PROJECT. THE EXISTING JUTE RESEARCH AND SEED PRODUCTION PROGRAMS WILL BE REVIEWED AND EVALUATED, INCLUDING PLANT BREEDING, SEED FARMS, MARKETING, QUALITY CONTROL AND OTHER FACILITIES OF THE BANGLADESH JUTE RESEARCH INSTITUTE. ALSO TO BE EXAMINED WILL BE LEGISLATIVE, CREDIT AND EXTENSION TRAINING NEEDS, AS WELL AS FORMULATION OF A PROPOSAL TO CREATE APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SUPERIOR

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JUTE VARIETIES.

2. RECENT CRUDE OIL COST INCREASES HAVE THE PROSPECT OF ALLEVIATING COMPETITIVE PRESSURES FROM SYNTHETIC JUTE SUBSTITUTES (SINCE THEY ARE BASED ON POLYPROPYLENE RESIN RAW MATERIALS), EXPECIALLY IF PRODUCTIVITY OF JUTE PRODUCTION CAN BE IMPROVED BY RAPID INTRODUCTION OF HIGHER-YIELDING VARIETIES, BETTER CULTIVATION PRACTICES AND MORE FERTILIZER.

3. BANK WILL ENGAGE TEAM OF JUTE SPECIALISTS FROM FAO TO INCLUDE SEED TECHNOLOGIST, AGRICULTURE ECONOMIST AND AGRICULTURE ENGINEER. IN ACCORD WITH FAO-ADB MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT, FAO WILL FINANCE US\$13,000 (HALF OF DIRECT EXPENSES OF FAO PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN THIS STUDY) AND BANK WILL FINANCE REMAINING COSTS OF \$46,000, INCLUDING BALANCE OF DIRECT FAO PERSONNEL, 10 PERCENT OVERHEAD TO FAO, TRAVEL, SUBSISTENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT-WRITING EXPENSES FOR THIS 10-MAN/MONTH STUDY. GOVT OF BANGLADESH TO PROVIDE LOCAL COSTS ESTIMATED AT US\$5,000 EQUIVALENT.

4. UNDER PARA 7.2 OF BANK'S GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TA PROJECTS UNDER \$50,000 MAY BE APPROVED BY PRESIDENT WITHOUT REFERENCE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS. BANK DOC R44-74 DTD 23 APRIL DESCRIBING TA PROJECT AND PRESS RELEASE BEING POUCHED.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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